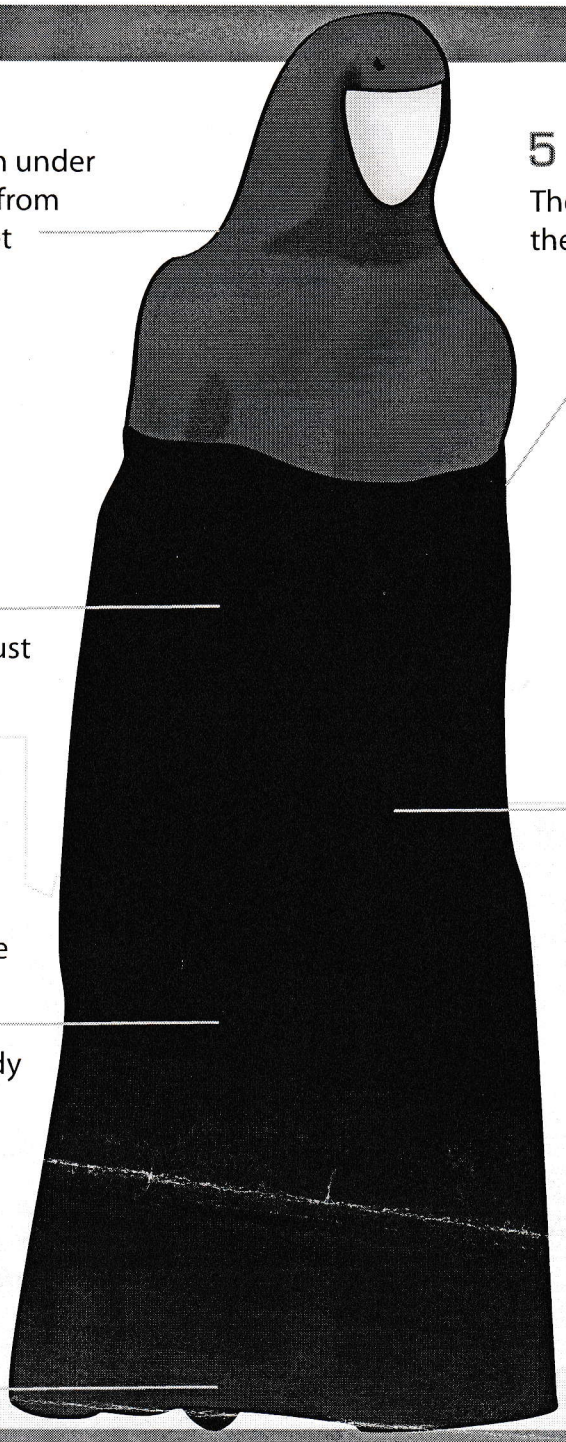
How to wear the Jilbaab correctly

The obligation upon women to cover their private parts in public is known from Islam by necessity and is based on clear cut evidences not open to interpretation.



1
The jilbaab must be worn under the khimaar (headscarf) from the neck down to the feet

2
The shape of the body is also considered 'awrah (private parts required to be covered) and so must not be visible.

3
The jilbaab must be loose and barrel shaped and mustn't be tight such that the shape of the body can be identified

4
The jilbaab must cover the body and clothes down to the feet

5
The jilbaab must be worn over the other clothes when in public

6
The material must not be so thin that the clothes underneath can be seen nor should it be decorated or a dazzling colour

The Jilbaab can be more than one piece as long as it covers the body and clothes as described here

See overleaf for evidences from the Qur'an and Sunnah ▶

Allah (swt) says, " O Prophet! Tell thy wives and daughters, and the believing women, that they should cast their outer garments (jilbaabs) over their persons (when in public): that is most convenient, that they should be known (as such) and not molested. And Allah is Oft- Forgiving, Most Merciful. " [EMQ 33:59]

This ayah obliges women to cover themselves with a jilbaab (loose fitting, barrel shaped garment(s)) over their clothes in public.

Public Life

This verse of the Qur'an is regarding the public life of the women i.e. when they leave the home. A public place is anywhere that others can enter or look into without permission.

It was reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said:

"There are two types of the people of Hell that I have not seen yet: men with whips like the tails of cattle, with which they strike the people, and women who are clothed yet naked, walking with an enticing gait, with something on their heads that looks like the humps of camels, leaning to one side. They will never enter Paradise or even smell its fragrance, although its fragrance can be detected from such and such a distance." (Narrated by Ahmad and by Muslim in al-Saheeh)

Shape

The Jilbaab is a long dress, which can be one or more pieces but must be loose and barrel shaped. It should not be tight fitting such that the shape of her body can be seen.

Texture

The material of the jilbaab must not be so thin that others can see what is underneath it. Otherwise they would be considered 'naked while clothed' as in the above hadith.

Colour

The jilbaab must not be decorated or brightly coloured material such that it attracts attention. Rather it should be plain and although a white jilbaab is permissible, the best jilbaab is a darker colour or black.

Length

The jilbaab, whether one piece or more, must cover the body and clothes from the neck down to and including the feet. There is a permit for women to lengthen their jilbaab in public below her ankles to ensure her feet are covered.

Ibn 'Umar, may Allaah be pleased with him, said: "The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: 'Whoever trails his garment on the ground out of pride, Allaah will not look at him.' Umm Salamah said: 'O Messenger of Allaah, what should women do with their hems?' He said, 'Let them go down a handspan.' She asked, 'What if their feet show?' He said, 'Let them lengthen it by a cubit, but no more.'" (al-Nisaa'i).